

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 09934 040833Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
-----091866 040837Z /15

Z O 040809Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 4652
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT FLASH
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM FLASH
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 9934

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, MOPS UNSC, LE, PBOR, IS
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON

1. POL COUNSELOR CALLED WEIZMAN'S AIDE COL. TEHILA
AT 0930 AUGUST 4 TO ASK THE LATEST INFORMATION ISRAEL
HAD ON WHAT WAS HAPPENING ON THE GROUND IN SOUTH LEBANON.
TEHILA SAID EVENING OF AUGUST 3 GEN. BEN GAL, IDF NORTHERN
COMMANDER, HAD MET WITH DEPUTY BATTALION COMMANDER OF
THE LEBANESE FORCES AT KAWKABA. BEN GAL HAD ADVISED HIM
TO DO HIS BEST TO CONVINCE GEN. KHOURY IN BEIRUT TO RE-
INSTATE HADDAD TO HIS FORMER POSITION. BEN GAL EXPLAINED
THAT THIS WAS THE KEY PROBLEM STANDING IN THE WAY OF A
SPEEDY DEPLOYMENT OF THE LAF TO TIBNIN.

2. ACCORDING TO TEHILA, THE LEBANESE OFFICER TOLD
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BEN GAL THAT KHOURY HAD SAID ORALLY THAT FROM HIS POINT
OF VIEW, HADDAD WAS BACK IN HIS COMMAND POSITION. BEN GAL
RECOMMENDED THAT THIS SHOULD BE PUT DOWN IN WRITING.

3. TEHILA SAID THAT HADDAD IS SUPPOSED TO MEET
TODAY ABOUT 1200 WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LEBANESE
BATTALION "TO NEGOTIATE". TEHILA WILL INFORM US IMMEDIATELY

WHEN HE HAS RESULT OF THAT MEETING.

4. TEHILA CONCLUDED THAT AROUND 2300 AUGUST 3, THREE SHELLS FROM MARJUYUN FELL ON IBL AS SAQY -- EXPLANATION WAS THAT CHRISTIANS SAW SOME MOVEMENT.

5. COMMENT: UNFORTUNATELY, DESPITE OUR ENDLESS DEMARCHES, ISRAELIS STILL SEEM TO CLING TO THE HOPE THAT HADDAD WILL BE REINSTATED BEFORE THE LAF BATTALION MOVES. WE HAVE TOLD WEIZMAN AND COMPANY AGAIN AND AGAIN THAT SUCH AN EVENTUALITY IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY GIVEN THE POLITICAL BALANCE IN THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT. BUT THE GOI GOES ON TRYING. WE DON'T KNOW IF THAT IS BECAUSE HADDAD WON'T BUDGE OTHERWISE, OR BECAUSE ISRAELIS HAVE DECIDED IT IS THEIR REQUIREMENT AS WELL.
LEWIS

SECRET

NNN

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